REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 22-25, 28, 41-50, 53 and 66-71 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Cox. In response, claims 22, 25, 28, 29, 41, 47, 50, 53, 54 and 66 have been amended. Accordingly, a Version with Markings to Show Changes made to these claims is enclosed. Claims 26, 27, 45, 51, 52 and 70 have been cancelled.

The invention is directed to a technique for management of a data source, e.g., a private directory, for use in an information assistance service including directory assistance. For example, a private directory may contain contact information for an individual or a group. However, users of a private directory may be accorded different levels of access rights. For instance, a read-only user of the private directory has the right to read the directory only; an administrator of the private directory has the right to read and edit the directory, and provision new read-only users as well as restrict previously provisioned read-only users; an owner of a private directory, normally a creator thereof, not only has access rights commensurate with an administrator but also the rights to delete the directory, and provision and dismiss administrators of the directory. See page 6, line 19 et seq. of the specification.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, an administrator and owner may also opt to keep particular contact information (e.g., a telephone number) in a directory "private" to prohibit disclosure of that particular contact information to a read-only user of the directory. However, the information assistance service may offer to establish a communication connection (e.g., a telephone connection) for the read-only user based on the particular contact information despite a prohibition of disclosure of such information to him or her. *See* Fig. 11; page 7, line 19 et seq.; page 9, lines 28- page 10, line 1 of the specification.

Cox discloses a directory assistance system for automatically reconnecting a call to an operator after the call is unsuccessfully connected to a destination party desired by a

user. However, nowhere does Cox teach or suggest the inventive service where while disclosure of selected data element in a private directory to a user is prohibited, it may still "offer[] to establish a ... communication connection for the [user] based on the selected data element," as amended claims 22 and 47 now recite. Similarly, amended claims 41 and 66 now recite "establishing a communication connection for the user based on the contact information despite a prohibition of disclosure of the contact information to the user." As such, the claimed invention is not anticipated by Cox. Nor is it obvious from reading Cox. Thus, amended claims 22, 41, 47 and 66, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over Cox.

The Examiner also rejected claims 26, 27, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Cox in view of Darden. Although the rejected claims have been cancelled, this rejection is traversed in light of the claimed invention, represented by amended claims 22, 41, 47 and 66.

Darden discloses a communications system for a subscriber to create and access his/her own personal electronic directory (PED). In accordance with the disclosed technique, the subscriber records, on the system, listings in a PED in his/her own voice for subsequent reference thereto. In order to access the PED, the subscriber needs to provide the system with a password. Once the password is verified, the subscriber is prompted to provide a listed name for which the telephone number is desired. The desired telephone number may then be automatically dialed. At the outset, Darden does not even apply to the claimed invention because the Darden system does not provide any option for prohibiting disclosure of a listing in the PED to the subscriber who is supposed to be the sole user of the PED. Any such option would defeat the purpose of the PED, which is to provide a means for the subscriber to access personal listing information which currently is not at hand or cannot be recalled by the subscriber.

Thus, Darden also fails to teach or suggest "offering to establish a ... communication connection for the [user] based on the selected data element despite a
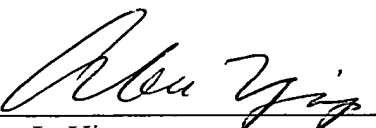
prohibition of the disclosure of the selected data element" to the user, as amended claims 22 and 47 recite. Amended claims 41 and 66 include similar recitations as discussed before. In fact, Darden teaches away from the claimed invention because when, for example, the subscriber to the Darden system does not produce a proper password, the subscriber is denied access to his/her own PED, rendering auto-dialing of any listed number in the PED impossible. By contrast, even though a user of the inventive service may be denied access to certain contact information, the inventive service still offers to establish a communication connection for the user based on such contact information. As such, amended claims 22, 41, 47 and 66, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over Cox in view of Darden.

The Examiner also rejected claims 29 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox in view of Marwell. While applicants do not admit that Marwell is prior art, the claimed invention represented by claims 29 and 54, however, is patentable over the cited references by virtue of their dependency from amended claims 22 and 47, respectively, which are patentable for reasons set forth above.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 22-25, 28, 29, 41-44, 46-50, 53, 54, 66-69 and 71, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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Enclosure

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

22. (Three Times Amended) A system for maintaining a data source for use in directory assistance comprising:

an interface for receiving signals in establishing a first communication connection, the first communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more data elements in the data source which are associated with the initiator being located based on an identifier in the received signals which identifies the communications apparatus;

a receiver for receiving from the initiator a request for disclosing to the initiator [taking an action concerning] a selected one of the data elements [through the established communication connection], the [action] selected data element being associated with an access right requirement;

a processor for identifying an access right of the initiator concerning the selected data element, disclosure of the selected data element to the initiator being prohibited[; and

a device for taking the action] when the access right of the initiator [meets] does not meet the access right requirement; and

a device for offering to establish a second communication connection for the initiator based on the selected data element despite a prohibition of the disclosure of the selected data element to the initiator.

25. (Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the [action] selected data element includes [reading the selected database] contact information.

28. (Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein at least one of the first and second communication [connection] connections includes a telephone connection.

29. (Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein <u>at least one of</u> the <u>first and second</u> communication [connection] <u>connections</u> includes an Internet connection.

41. (Twice Amended) A system for providing a communications service using a database comprising:

an interface for receiving from a user a request for communicating with a desired party;

a first device for searching the database for contact information concerning the desired party to which a communication connection is to be established for the user, the contact information being associated with an access right requirement concerning disclosure of the contact information;

[a second device for establishing the communications connection based on the contact information;]

a processor for identifying an access right of the user; [and]

a controller for [allowing] <u>prohibiting</u> disclosure of the contact information to the user when the access right of the user <u>does not satisfy</u> [satisfies] the access right requirement<u>; and</u>

<u>a second device for establishing a communication connection for the user based on the contact information despite a prohibition of disclosure of the contact information to the user.</u>

47. (Three Times Amended) A method for maintaining a data source for use in directory assistance comprising:

receiving signals in establishing a <u>first</u> communication connection, the <u>first</u> communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more data elements in the data source which are associated with the initiator being located based on an identifier in the received signals which identifies the

communications apparatus;

receiving from the initiator a request for <u>disclosing to the initiator</u> [taking an action concerning] a selected one of the data elements [through the established communication connection], the [action] <u>selected data element</u> being associated with an access right requirement;

identifying an access right of the initiator concerning the selected data element;

<u>prohibiting disclosure of the selected data element to the initiator</u> [and

taking the action] when the access right of the initiator [meets] <u>does not meet</u> the access right requirement<u>; and</u>

<u>offering to establish a second communication connection for the initiator based on the selected data element despite a prohibition of disclosure of the selected data element to the initiator.</u>

50. (Amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the [action] <u>selected data element</u> includes [reading the selected database] <u>contact information</u>.

53. (Amended) The method of claim 47 wherein <u>at least one of</u> the <u>first and second</u> communication [connection] <u>connections</u> includes a telephone connection.

54. (Amended) The method of claim 47 wherein <u>at least one of</u> the <u>first and second</u> communication [connection] <u>connections</u> includes an Internet connection.

66. (Twice Amended) A method for providing a communications service using a database comprising:

receiving from a user a request for communicating with a desired party;

searching the database for contact information concerning the desired party to which a communication connection is to be established for the user, the contact

information being associated with an access right requirement concerning disclosure of the contact information;

[establishing the communications connection based on the contact information;]

identifying an access right of the user; [and]

prohibiting [allowing] disclosure of the contact information to the user when the access right of the user does not satisfy [satisfies] the access right requirement; and

establishing a communications connection for the user based on the contact information despite a prohibition of disclosure of the contact information to the user.